

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 A split processing system comprising:

(a) a plurality of nodes, each node including one or more processors;

(b) a communication network that allows the one or more processors at each of the nodes to cooperate with each other; and

(c) means to allow one or more of the nodes to take over processing capacity of a node that becomes lost,

the availability of the split processing system being greater than the availability of an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node,

wherein at least some of the nodes are database processing nodes which include an instance of a portion of a database or an instance of all of a database.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein at least some of the nodes are processing nodes which do not contain a database.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein at least some of the nodes that do not contain a database are provided access to contents of databases in other nodes via the communication network.

5. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein each of the database processing nodes further comprise an operating system and one or more applications.

6. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein at least some of the database processing nodes include disk systems having one or more disk drives for accessing the respective databases.

7. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein at least some of the database processing nodes include memory-resident systems having one or more memory-resident storage devices.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1~~ A split processing system comprising:

(a) a plurality of nodes, each node including one or more processors;

(b) a communication network that allows the one or more processors at each of the nodes to cooperate with each other; and

(c) means to allow one or more of the nodes to take over processing capacity of a node that becomes lost,

the availability of the split processing system being greater than the availability of an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node,

wherein at least some of the nodes include an instance of a portion of a database or an instance of all of a database.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein at least some of the nodes have the same portion of the database as each other, the nodes that have the same portion of the database as each other further comprise database replication software which allows the same portions of the database to remain synchronized whenever the contents of the database at one of the nodes is changed.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein database replication software performs the synchronization using synchronous replication.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein database replication software performs the synchronization using asynchronous replication.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein database replication software performs the synchronization using dual write synchronization.

13-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 A split processing system comprising:

(a) a plurality of nodes, each node including:

(i) a processor subsystem including at least one processor, and

(ii) an operating system;

(b) a communication network that allows the one or more processors at each of the nodes to cooperate with each other; and

(c) means to allow one or more of the nodes to take over processing capacity of a node that becomes lost,

the availability of the split processing system being greater than the availability of an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node,

wherein at least some of the nodes include an instance of a portion of a database or an instance of all of a database.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein at least some of the nodes have the same portion of the database as each other, the nodes that have the same portion of the database as each other further comprise database replication software which allows the same portions of the database to remain synchronized whenever the contents of the database at one of the nodes is changed.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein database replication software performs the synchronization using synchronous replication.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein database replication software performs the synchronization using asynchronous replication.

21. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein database replication software performs the synchronization using dual write synchronization.

22-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 A split processing system comprising:

(a) a plurality of nodes, each node including one or more processors;

(b) a communication network that allows the one or more processors at each of the nodes to cooperate with each other; and

(c) means to allow one or more of the nodes to take over processing capacity of a node that becomes lost,

the availability of the split processing system being greater than the availability of an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node,

wherein each node operates independently of each other.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 A split processing system comprising:

(a) a plurality of nodes, each node including:

(i) a processor subsystem including at least one processor, and

(ii) an operating system;

(b) a communication network that allows the one or more processors at each of the nodes to cooperate with each other; and

(c) means to allow one or more of the nodes to take over processing capacity of a node that becomes lost,

the availability of the split processing system being greater than the availability of an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node,

wherein each node operates independently of each other.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 A split processing system comprising:

(a) a plurality of nodes, each node including one or more processors;

(b) a communication network that allows the one or more processors at each of the nodes to cooperate with each other; and

(c) means to allow one or more of the nodes to take over processing capacity of a node that becomes lost,

the availability of the split processing system being greater than the availability of an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node,

wherein each node has less processors than the number of processors in an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 A split processing system comprising:

(a) a plurality of nodes, each node including:

- (i) a processor subsystem including at least one processor, and
- (ii) an operating system;

(b) a communication network that allows the one or more processors at each of the nodes to cooperate with each other; and

(c) means to allow one or more of the nodes to take over processing capacity of a node that becomes lost,

the availability of the split processing system being greater than the availability of an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node,

wherein each node has less processors than the number of processors in an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 A split processing system comprising:

(a) a plurality of nodes, each node including one or more processors;

(b) a communication network that allows the one or more processors at each of the nodes to cooperate with each other; and

(c) means to allow one or more of the nodes to take over processing capacity of a node that becomes lost,

the availability of the split processing system being greater than the availability of an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node,

wherein the split system has a specific number of failure modes which is less than the number of failure modes in an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29 wherein the number of failure modes is calculated from the number of nodes and spares of critical components.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1~~ A split processing system comprising:

- (a) a plurality of nodes, each node including one or more processors;
- (b) a communication network that allows the one or more processors at each of the nodes to cooperate with each other; and
- (c) means to allow one or more of the nodes to take over processing capacity of a node that becomes lost,

the availability of the split processing system being greater than the availability of an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node,

wherein the split system has a specific number of failure modes which is less than the number of failure modes in an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the number of failure modes is calculated from the number of nodes and spares of critical components.